

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/689,294

Examiner

Kevin Quinto

Applicant(s)

TU ET AL.

Art Unit

2826

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 28 March 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13, 15-25, 27-30, 45 and 46.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see p. 16-18 of the response, filed February 1, 2007, with respect to claims 1-6, 8, 9-11, 15-18, 21-25, and 27-30 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-6, 9-11, 15-18, 22-25, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jin et al. (United States Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0183862 A1) and the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jin et al. (United States Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0183862 A1) in view of Yang et al. (USPN 6,417,537 B1) have been withdrawn. The applicant's arguments, particularly regarding the difference between the "recessed region" of the applicant's invention (as described on p. 16, paragraph 39, in conjunction with figures 2G and 4G of the applicant's currently filed specification) and the planar surface of the insulating layer described in the Jin reference (Jin et al., United States Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0183862 A1) have been found to be persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-13, 15-25, 27-30, 45, and 46 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the examiner is unaware of any prior art which suggests or renders obvious a semiconductor device containing a plurality of metal-insulator-metal capacitors formed in at first and second

Art Unit: 2826

insulating layers such that at least one capacitor that has two conductive layers such that a first conductive layer extends completely to the top surface of the second insulating layer such that the second insulating layer contains a recessed region between two adjacent capacitors which contains the second conductive layer such that the top electrodes of the two adjacent capacitors are coupled together.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Quinto whose telephone number is (571) 272-1920. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sue Purvis can be reached on (571) 272-1236. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

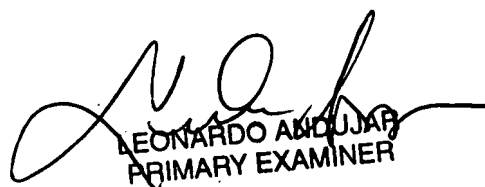
Application/Control Number: 10/689,294

Page 4

Art Unit: 2826

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KVQ



LEONARDO QUIJANO
PRIMARY EXAMINER